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Watch Committee

Watch Report

DOS & DIA review(s) completed.

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21 November 1974

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COMBINED WATCH REPORT
of the
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

No. 1265

21 November 1974
(As of 1730 EST)

The Committee concludes that there will be no military attack on the United States or its overseas forces in the near future. Subjects of immediate concern are discussed below.

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I. Middle East

Tension in the Middle East has abated somewhat since last weekend but remains high despite recent statements from Israeli and Syrian spokesmen that they intend to abide by the cease-fire agreement. Each of the two is apprehensive that the other may launch a preemptive attack and Syrian and Israeli military forces are deployed so that major hostilities could be renewed with little or no warning. If Damascus does not agree to extend the UNDOF mandate, Tel Aviv could assess the refusal as a Syrian move to prepare the way for an imminent large-scale attack on Israel. In such a circumstance, the Israelis would then probably mount a preemptive attack against Syria.

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Fighting between Iraqi government forces and the Kurdish rebels continues with neither side appearing to make any significant gains.

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II. USSR-Eastern Europe

We see no indications of hostile intent in the military activity of the USSR or other Warsaw Pact nations.

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III. Southeast Asia

In South Vietnam, sharp clashes are expected to continue in Military Region 1 as government and Communist forces vie for control of strategic high ground. Elsewhere in the country, Communist forces continue preparations for increased fighting this dry season.

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